



Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Nominations Open For Exporter of Year Awards **ALASKA EXPORTERS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY**

(Juneau) – The nomination period opened today for the Governor's Exporter of the Year Award, honoring Alaska companies that made important contributions to the state's economy through their international sales and operations in 2004.

"For the first time in over a decade, Alaska's annual exports have topped \$3 billion. Alaska companies' international trade has boosted the state's economy since statehood," said Governor Frank H. Murkowski. "Through the Governor's Exporter of the Year Awards, we Alaskans recognize the companies that contribute to our state through their international operations."

"We do encourage companies of all sizes to consider nomination," said Margy Johnson, director of the Office of International Trade within the Office of the Governor. As the main state agency working with Alaska exporters, her office is accepting award nominations. "It's been a banner year for our state's exports. We want to honor the companies that make critical commercial connections in international markets."

Awards may be made in the categories of goods, services and small businesses. Individuals or companies may nominate others or themselves. Nominations are due Monday, April 18, 2005. The awards will be presented at the 18th Annual Export Alaska Banquet, sponsored by the Alaska Export Council and the Alaska Export Assistance Center, on May 26, 2005. The event is at the Hotel Captain Cook, in Anchorage.

Previous winners of the award include Sealaska Timber Corporation, Northern Keta, Agrium, Dowland-Bach, Veco, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Cominco Alaska Inc., Circumpolar Expeditions, North Pacific Processors, Tesoro Alaska Petroleum, Era Aviation, Apocalypse Designs, DAT/Em Systems International, Federal Express, and Klukwan Forest Products.

A copy of the nomination form is available on the web at: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/oed/home.htm> or at <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/trade/>.

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